



Idaho Department of Correction

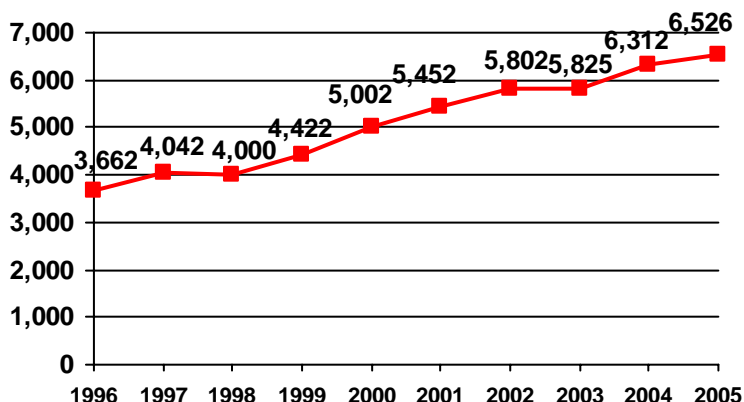
Understanding Growth

Quick Facts
January 2006

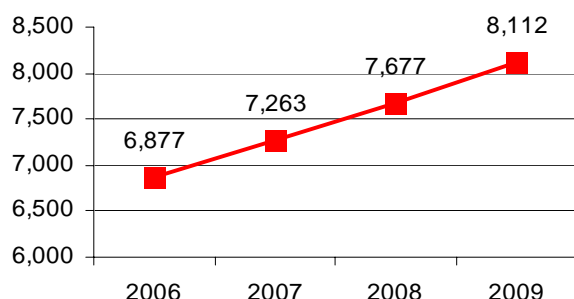
Prison Growth 1996-2005

Over the last 10 years, Idaho's incarcerated offender population has increased at an average of 7.3% a year. During that time the incarcerated offender population increased from 3,662 to 6,526. That is an average increase of about 325 offenders a year, but some years have been substantially higher. In FY 2000, the population increased by 563.

Idaho Prison Growth
Fiscal Year 1996-2005



Forecast Prison Growth
Fiscal Year 2006-2009



Future Prison Growth

The offender population forecast anticipates an average increase of 5.6% a year over the next four years. That means that the incarcerated offender population will increase almost 400 a year over the next four years.

What Causes Growth

The primary contributor to growth is the increase in the population of Idaho. Over the last 10 years, the Idaho population between the ages of 20 and 34 increased an average of 3.2% a year. This age group is most highly associated with criminal behavior. Over the same time, court commitments to incarcerated statuses have increased at an almost identical average of 3.3% a year. This accounts for about half of the historical average annual increase in the incarcerated offender population of 7.3%.

The rest of the average annual growth rate can be attributed to recidivism. Over the last 10 years, almost two thirds of all admissions to prison came from recidivist groups. There are two significant contributors to recidivism; low educational attainment and substance abuse. Both factors are present in the Idaho incarcerated offender population. Nearly 45% of all offenders admitted to the Department do not have a high school education. In addition, 85% of those admitted have substance abuse issues.